

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EUR-12 USIA-06

PRS-01 /061 W

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P R 041400Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2432

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS OTRA PFOR EC

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US OF PERUVIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

PEDRO RICHTER PRADA

REF: A) LIMA 10856 B) SANTIAGO 11505

1. WE SHARE SOME OF EMBASSY SANTIAGO'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED VISIT OF PERUVIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF PEDRO RICHTER TO THE US, THOUGH PERHAPS TO A LESSER DEGREE. THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES HAVE CONTINUED TO EXPRESS THEIR UNEASINESS ABOUT THE RECENT PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES, PARTICULARLY THE ACQUISITION OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND TANKS. CONCERN ABOUT PERUVIAN INTENTION IS A CONSTANT OF THE ECUADOREAN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT.

2. WE WOULD CONSEL VERY STRONGLY AGAINST EXTENDING AND PUBLICIZING A FORMAL INVITATION TO GENERAL RICHTER, AND THEN AFFORDING TOO MUCH BALLYHOO TO HIS MOVEMENTS WHILE IN US. TO PUT SUCH A FRAME AROUND THE VISIT WOULD INCREASE IMMEASURABLY THE DANGER OF RAISING SUSPICIONS AMONG ECUADOREANS THAT WE WERE LEANING DECISIVLY TOWARD PERU OR
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THAT WE WERE TRUCKLING TO IT IN ORDER TO COMPETE FOR FAVOR WITH SOVIETS. EITHER PERCEPTION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE EXPLAINABLE IN THE ECUADOREAN
POLITICAL CONTEXT IF THE VISIT WERE PROTRAYED IMPLICITLY
AS A US ACCEPTANCE OF A PERUVIAN REQUEST FOR A VISIT RATHER
THAN AS A UNILATERAL INVITATION FROM THE US.THE ECUADOR-
EANS BELIEVE THAT WE SHARE THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE PERUVIAN
ARMS BUILDUP AND WOULD LESS LIKELY BECOME ANXIOUS ABOUT THE
TRIP IF WE COULD EXPLAIN IT SIMPLY AS A PERUVIAN EFFORT TO
STRENGTHEN TIES TO THE US AND TO REASURE US CONCERNING THEIR
INTENTIONS IN VIEW OF THE RECENT SOVIET PURCHASE.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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